

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

)

)

COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY) D.T.E. 00-____

)

)

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2001
RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICE PROGRAM BUDGET
AND SURCHARGE

Petition of Commonwealth Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 App., §§ 2-1 through 2-10 and 220 C.M.R. § 7.00 et seq., for approval by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy of Commonwealth Gas Company's proposed operating budget and surcharge for the Residential Energy Conservation Service Program for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 ("FY 2001").

COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY

Catherine J. Keuthen, Esq.

NSTAR Services Company

800 Boylston Street

Boston, MA 02199-8003

Telephone: (617) 424-3160

Telecopier: (617) 424-2733

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

)

)

COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY) D.T.E. 00-____

)

)

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2001

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICE PROGRAM BUDGET

AND SURCHARGE

Commonwealth Gas Company, doing business as NSTAR Gas ("NSTAR Gas" or the "Company"), pursuant to G.L. c. 164 App., §§ 2-1 through 2-10 and 220 C.M.R. §§ 7.00 et seq., requests approval by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") of the Company's proposed operating budget and surcharge for its residential energy conservation services ("RCS") program for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 ("FY 2001"). In support of its Petition, NSTAR Gas states the following:

1. NSTAR Gas is a gas company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts engaged in the business, among others, of selling and distributing gas at retail in Massachusetts.
2. The rates and charges for such gas service rendered by NSTAR Gas are subject to the jurisdiction of the Department in accordance with provisions of G.L. c. 164. Changes in the Company's RCS budget and Residential Energy Conservation Service Charge made by NSTAR Gas to its customers are subject to approval by the Department pursuant to G.L. c. 164, App. §§ 2-1 through 2-10, and the Department's applicable regulations with respect hereto. 220 C.M.R. §§ 7.00 *et seq.*
3. NSTAR Gas has complied with the requirements established in G.L. c. 164 App., §§ 2-1 through 2-10; 220 C.M.R. §§ 7.00 et seq.; and the filing requirements set forth in Mass. Save, Inc., D.P.U. 85-189 (1985).
4. The Company's RCS budget for FY 2001 is \$363,000.
5. NSTAR Gas states that its FY 2001 RCS budget projections are good faith estimates based on an extrapolation of the budgets approved by the Department, and endorsed by the DOER, for FY 2000. The Company states that its twelve-month estimated expenditures for FY 2001 are reasonable.
6. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164 App., §§ 2-1 through 2-10, the DOER must adopt a state plan and promulgate regulations necessary to implement that plan. DOER is responsible for: (a) establishing residential energy and conservation goals; (b) establishing RCS program guidelines; (c) monitoring the implementation of the program requirements; and (d) overseeing the implementation of the state plan by approving a utility implementation plan.
7. DOER has commenced implementation of the redesign of the RCS program, including the amendment of existing regulations. NSTAR Gas is participating in this process. NSTAR Gas's filing in this proceeding reflects the unique circumstances of this transition year and specifically responds to the DOER's directives that, in lieu of a traditional UIP, RCS program administrators should include a brief FY 2001 budget summary and related tables for RCS budget filings for FY 2001.
8. Once the DOER redesign is complete, the Company will notify the Department of changes, if any, that it proposes to make to its RCS program to comply with the DOER redesign.
9. In support of this Petition, the Company hereby incorporates into this Petition the following exhibits:

(A) A copy of the Company's FY 2001 RCS budget filing, containing eleven exhibits which explicitly address the requirements of D.P.U. 85-189 and contain the Residential Conservation Service Surcharge Calculation Sheets in the form provided in 220 C.M.R. § 7.00. In addition, the filing contains the prepared direct testimony of the Company's witness in this proceeding, Lisa M. Carloni.

(B) A summary description of the changes to RCS that are being proposed in connection with the DOER redesign and the Company's FY 2001 budget in the format prescribed by the DOER (see Exhibit 1 of FY 2001 budget filing).

10. The Company calculated its FY 2001 RCS surcharge by dividing the total number of bills expected to be rendered during FY 2001 by the net amount to be collected to support RCS services and factoring in a reconciling adjustment with respect to past expenditures and collections. The RCS surcharge proposed to be applied to the Company's bills during FY 2001 is \$0.09 per bill per month. The current RCS surcharge for the Company is \$0.15 per bill per month as approved in Commonwealth Gas Company, D.T.E. 99-98 (December 30, 1999).

Wherefore, the petitioner, Commonwealth Gas Company, hereby respectfully requests that the Department approve, after publication of notice, and as required by applicable law and regulations, its proposed FY 2001 RCS budget and surcharge.

Respectfully Submitted,

COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY

Catherine J. Keuthen, Esq.

NSTAR Services Company

800 Boylston Street

Boston, MA 02199-8003

Telephone: (617) 424-3160

Telecopier: (617) 424-2733

Dated: November 1, 2000

Cjk/dte/rcs/comgas petition2000.doc